

CURIOUS ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS  
IN BOW CHURCH-YARD.

At the Society of Antiquaries, on Thursday, 19th ultimo, a paper was read from Thomas Lott, Esq., F.S.A., noticing some subterranean architectural remains (being stone vaultings of substantial masonry) beneath the houses in Bow-church-yard, City, of a very interesting character, although of a much later date than the celebrated Norman crypts at present existing under the church.

Beneath the house No. 5, occupied by Messrs. Grodeck, is a square vaulted chamber, 12 feet by 7 feet 3 inches high, with a slightly pointed arch of ribbed masonry, similar to some of those of the old London bridge. There had been in the centre of the floor an excavation which might have been formerly used as a bath, but which was now arched over and converted into a cesspool. Proceeding towards Cheapside, there appears to be a continuation of the vaulting beneath the houses Nos. 4 and 3. The arch of the vault here is plain, not ribbed, and more pointed. The masonry appears, from an aperture near to the warehouse above, to be of considerable thickness. This crypt or vault is 7 feet in height from the floor to the crown of the arch, and is 9 feet in width and 18 feet long. Beneath the house No. 4 is an outer vault. The entrance to both these vaults is by a depressed Tudor arch with plain spandrels, 6 feet high; the thickness of the walls about 4 feet.

In the thickness of the eastern wall of one of the vaults, are cut triangular-headed niches, similar to those in which, in ancient ecclesiastical edifices, the basins containing the holy water, and sometimes lamps, were placed, instances of which are seen in Old Stepney Church, and many other buildings of the same period.

These vaultings appear originally to have extended to Cheapside, for beneath a house there, in a direct line with these buildings, and close to the street, is a massive stone wall.

The arches of this crypt are of the low pointed form, which came into use in the 16th century.

There are no records of any monastery having existed on this spot, and it is difficult to conjecture what the building originally was; Mr. Chaffers thought it might be the remains of the crown sild, or shed, where the sovereigns repaired to view the joustings, shows, and great marching watches, on the eve of the festivals.

Accompanying his communication Mr. Lott had sent two old deeds, being grants by letters patent from Henry VIII., with impressions of the great seal attached, on which he had stumbled in his researches as to the existence of any monastery on this spot. One of these deeds excited great interest, inasmuch as the splendidly illuminated margin contained a portrait in colours of the king, which, from the care bestowed on its execution, and its resemblance to the head on the coinage of the period, might possibly be a good likeness of the absolute monarch.

Mr. Lott also laid on the table the ancient silver parish seal of St. Mary-le-Bow, representing the tower of the church as it existed antecedently to the Fire of London, with its bows or arches of stone, and five lanterns therein, intended to have been glazed, and lighted at night to guide the passengers across the ferry of the Thames.

## DISTRICT SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION.

"A child's an'ang pr' takin' notes,  
An' faith, he'll peent 'em!"

THE anniversary dinner of this association took place on Monday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern, when forty gentlemen sat down; and H. E. Kendall, Esq., took the chair, supported by Professor Hosking, the official referee appointed under the Metropolitan Buildings Act. Mr. Baker, hon. sec., read the friendly apologies of Mr. Higgins, the other official referee, and of Mr. Symonds, the registrar, for their unavoidable absence.

After the usual toasts, the Chairman alluded to the great gratification which the presence of Mr. Hosking gave to himself and to the meeting, and proposed the health of "The Official Referees and the Registrar."

The toast having been received with cheers, Mr. Hosking thanked the society for the compliment paid to him, and expressed much pleasure at having received their invitation; it was

an earnest that, under the new circumstances in which they would soon be relatively placed to each other, he should receive their co-operation; they would all shortly be in the same boat together, and when he considered the great experience of many members of the Association, and the attention which they had bestowed upon the new Act, he hoped to derive great benefit from their assistance. If, however, in the performance of his office, he should be compelled to differ in opinion from them, or to exercise any of the powers which the law gave him over their appointments and their duties, he was glad to have this opportunity afforded to him of shewing the usual feeling of an Englishman, who always shakes hands before the fight. (Cheers.) With some complimentary observations, he then proposed, "Prosperity to the District Surveyors' Association."

The Chairman having acknowledged the toast, briefly gave, "Mr. Donaldson and the newly-elected Surveyors."

Mr. Donaldson said, that the duties of the new surveyors would be comparatively light, for whenever any case of difficulty arose, he should not fail to call in Trafalgar-square for proper directions (a laugh); so that, what with following the example of the senior surveyors, and the advice of the official referees, the path would be clear, and easily pursued.

The Chairman then said, it would be recollected that, three weeks ago, Mr. Baker, the honorary secretary, had stated his intention to resign the office, and assigned his indisposition alone as his reason for doing so. The association felt that much was due to their esteemed friend, not only for the efficient manner in which he had for so long a period performed the duties of his office, but for his exertions at the formation of the society. A committee was therefore formed, and it was unanimously agreed to present him with a silver salver, having an appropriate inscription. However inadequate the gift, he now begged to present it in the name of the association, and to couple with it, a bumper to "Mr. Baker's health."

The toast having been received with cheers, Mr. Baker said, that though he had been led to expect this mark of kindness at their hands, he was, nevertheless, but ill prepared to express, in appropriate terms, his grateful sense of it. Returning thanks seemed, at first sight, an easy task, but when the heart was full, no one knew, until he tried, how difficult it was to clothe gratitude with words. On this account, he begged for their forbearance, for like "Tratty Veeck," he found "every word swelling in the throat to the size of the whole alphabet." Imperfect, however, as he might express it, he assured them that his gratitude was at least sincere, and that he felt deeply indebted to all,—to those whom an intercourse of many years had impressed him with the knowledge of their worth and their good fellowship, and also to those new members, who, uncalled for and unlooked for, but not uncared for, had voluntarily come forward on this occasion. He valued the inscription upon the plate more than the plate itself, and trusted that he should preserve his friends as long as he should preserve their testimonial. He could not relinquish the post of secretary without congratulating the association on its healthy and prosperous condition: there had been no quarrellings, no jealousies, or discontent, to induce one member to retire; but all the meetings had been conducted in harmony and he might add too, with discretion, when he recollected that the last act of the association was to appoint Mr. Pownall to the post of secretary (loud cheers), a gentleman thoroughly qualified for the office, and who had already entered on his task with activity and zeal. No wonder then that a body like this, associating together quite as much for the public good as for its own, should meet with the sanctioning presence of the gentleman on the right of the chair. I am delighted, concluded Mr. Baker, to see him amongst us, and as he has alluded to our being in the same boat, I promise him that if, on the untied waters in which our vessel is to be launched on Wednesday next, he will steer steadily, we will pull heartily, and so the boat shall go merrily down the stream. (Loud cheers.)

"Mr. Allsop and the visitors." "The Magistrates of Middlesex, Kent, and Surrey," and several other toasts followed. We must

not omit, however, one toast proposed by Mr. Pownall, who prefaced it by saying that the company had drunk the healths of new members and new friends, and right glad was he to see them; but that they ought not to forget a certain good old friend who was about to part with them for ever. Many a time had this good friend, now seventy years old, done them able service; many were the debts of gratitude due for these services; indeed those who had known him longest loved him best, and no one therefore would refuse to drink to "The Blessed Memory of the old Act."

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, Canterbury, was consecrated on the 21st of last month. The building consists of a nave and side aisles, or chancel, and a tower and spire at the west end, placed in the centre. The nave has a clerestory, and is covered with a double roof, so arranged as to give the appearance of an open roof of lower pitch. The roof of the aisles is very simple and effective; it consists of boarding supported on a frame-work of timber which forms square panels for the ceiling, and is covered with asphalted felt and slated. The pulpit is on the north side of the chancel-arch, and is entered by means of steps from the chancel; the robing-room is contiguous. The pulpit is of stone, and is adorned with paintings of St. Peter, St. Paul, and other apostles, on porcelain tablets, drawn by Nixon, executed by the firm of Copeland and Garrett, and presented by the latter gentleman, together with the encaustic tiles with which the centre of the nave and the whole of the chancel are paved. The steps formed also of porcelain confined by iron moldings, are ingeniously designed and arranged. One difficulty in the manufacture of encaustic tiles seems to be, that of making them all exactly of the same size, and so obtaining straight lines when they are laid. A little more attention in this respect will, doubtless, overcome it. The material seems excellent.

The organ is placed in a small chamber formed over the north porch, so that the front is flush with the walls of the aisle. All the windows are filled with stained glass by Messrs. Ward and Nixon, and deserve commendation. The large east window contains figures of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, with the lamb, dove, and other emblems. Unsignificantly galleries, so often destructive to the effect of new churches, have been avoided, in consequence of which, although this edifice is in reality low, it has an open and airy appearance.

The church is noticeable for the extent of its coloured decorations, ably executed by Mr. Warrington. The roof of nave, aisles, and chancel, is elaborately painted in patterns, the whole of the wood-work having been first stained to represent oak. On both sides of the tie-beams of the nave-roof are Scripture sentences; those facing west, confirmations of the ten commandments, from the New Testament; those east, proverbs from Solomon. On the spandrels of the arches separating the nave and aisles, is represented the vine, with scrolls bearing sentences of thanksgiving, and surrounding an emblem of the sufferings of the Saviour, the crown of thorns, the nails, &c. Originally the scrolls were supported by angels, and over the chancel-arch were painted figures of St. Peter and others, the size of life; but these, at the suggestion of the bishop, were obliterated:—a proceeding with which, considering the present unfortunate state of the church, we entirely agree. In an artistic point of view we may be anxious to see decorations of this description introduced in our churches,—considered abstractedly no reasonable objection can be made to them; but when they are understood to be a banner of a party in the church bent on introducing dangerous changes, our artistic feelings give way to higher considerations, and we express our approval of the caution which would delay their introduction. On the subject of mural decorations and stained glass we shall shortly offer some general remarks.

The architect of the church, Mr. George Alexander, F.S.A., of the firm Messrs. Stevens and Alexander, has displayed most praiseworthy care, and much ability, in rendering the whole consistent and homogeneous, and has succeeded in producing a very successful building. The